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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5628

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 14143

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, CVIS, PROP, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KAL 858 AND NORTH KOREAN VISAS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN VIEW OF EVIDENCE ACCUMULATING THAT POINTS TO NORTH KOREAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF KAL 858, BOTH WE AND THE ROKG MAY SOON HAVE TO REEVALUATE THE PROPRIETY OF THE VARIOUS CONTACTS WE EACH HAVE WITH THE NORTH KOREANS. THE SOUTH KOREANS WERE QUITE UNHAPPY WITH OUR INDICATIONS THAT WE MIGHT ISSUE VISAS TO NORTH KOREAN ACADEMICS TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE AT STANFORD, AND WILL BE ABSOLUTELY BAFFLED IF WE NOW PROCEED WITH THAT OR ANY OTHER CONTACTS WITH THE NORTH IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN LIGHT OF OUR SUSPICIONS RELATED TO KAL 858.

3. WE TRUST DEPARTMENT HAS PUT THE NORTH KOREAN ACADEMICS' ENTRY INTO THE U.S. ON HOLD PENDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION. AMBASSADOR WILL SEE FOREIGN MINISTER CHOI ON SUBJECT OF FURTHER ROKG REACTIONS TO KAL 858 AT 0830 DECEMBER 4, AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT SHOULD THE QUESTION ARISE. LILLEY##

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ROBERT J. MARTENS
DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 1998 199403292

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